

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

1. The Examiner has required a restriction of the claims under U.S.C. 121 and 372 as not being linked to form a single general inventive concept. Applicant has, in order to expedite prosecution, chosen to rewrite the claims, without prejudice, to clarify the existence and nature of a single general inventive concept. New independent claim 1 and therefrom dependent claims 2-23 feature language that makes it absolutely clear that all claims relate to a single general inventive concept. In addition independent claim 24 and therefrom dependent claims 25-28 relate to a physical system useful only in realizing the method described in claim 1.

2. The Examiner has required election of a single species in case no generic claim is allowed.

As is clear to one skilled in the art, all species TRP, KYN, 3HOKYN, AA, 3HOAA, KA and QUIN are naturally occurring kynurenine metabolites. Further, the method and the device of the present invention are directed at diagnosing a medical condition as expressed by a relationship between the concentrations of two or more of these metabolites. Thus, Applicant cannot elect a single species.

Applicant therefore understands the requirement for election to be a requirement to select one kynurenine metabolite that is present in all comparisons. In order to expedite prosecution, and while traversing the election requirement, Applicant selects a relationship between [KA] and any other kynurenine metabolite

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to be the relationship used for diagnosis. Thus, Applicant selects [KA] when compared to any one or any combination of concentrations of other kynurenine metabolites. Claims 1-5, 7-26 are all readable on [KA].

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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